This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An instrument kit for performing a repair procedure on a meniscal tear in a knee for use in combination with a meniscal repair device, the instrument kit comprising:

at least one template including an elongate body defining X, Y and Z axes, the elongate body adapted for insertion in a knee of the patient to approximate a path to a meniscal tear within the knee, the elongate body having a length along the X-axis sufficient to access the meniscal tear and a reduced profile to facilitate passage thereto, wherein the elongate body includes an atraumatic tip to reduce injury to tissue within the knee, and wherein the atraumatic tip includes a distal end surface defining a dimple formed therein, whereby, upon subsequent removal of the one template from the knee, a correspondingly dimensioned meniscal repair device is introduced along the path to the meniscal tear for repair thereof.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The instrument kit according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the elongate body defines a height along the Z-axis and a width along the Y-axis, the width being substantially less than the height.

4. (Original) The instrument kit according to claim 1, wherein the at least one template includes an elongate body having a distal end portion which is obliquely arranged with respect to the X-axis.

5. (Original) The instrument kit according to claim 4, wherein the distal end portion of the elongate body is offset in a direction of the Y-axis.

6. (Original) The instrument kit according to claim 4, wherein the distal end portion of the elongate body is offset in a direction of the Z-axis.

7. (Currently Amended) The instrument kit according to claim [[3]] 1, ~~wherein the atraumatic tip of the at least one template includes a distal end surface defining a dimple formed therein,~~ wherein the dimple is configured and adapted to engage a fastener in order to facilitate driving of a fastener into underlying tissue.

8. (Original) The instrument kit according to claim 1, further including a handle configured and adapted to be removably attached to a proximal end of each of the at least one template.

9. (Original) The instrument kit according to claim 1, wherein each of the at least one templates includes a handle at least one of integrally formed with or fixedly secured to a proximal end thereof.

10. (Original) The instrument kit according to claim 1, further comprising:

at least one disposable loading unit corresponding in size and shape to the at least one template, the at least one disposable loading unit including an elongate body defining X, Y and Z axes and being adapted to follow the path to the meniscal tear.

11. (Original) The instrument kit according to claim 10, including a plurality of disposable loading units, wherein a first disposable loading unit includes a substantially linear

elongate body, a second disposable loading unit includes a distal end portion which is offset in a direction of the Y-axis, and a third disposable loading unit includes a distal end portion which is offset in a direction of the Z-axis.

12. (Currently Amended) An instrument kit for performing a repair procedure on a meniscal tear in a knee for use in combination with a meniscal repair device, the instrument kit comprising:

first and second templates, each template including an elongate body defining X, Y and Z axes, each elongate body being adapted for insertion in a knee of the patient to approximate a path to a meniscal tear within the knee, each elongate body having a length along the X-axis sufficient to access the meniscal tear and a reduced profile to facilitate passage thereto, the elongate body of the first template being substantially linear, the elongate body of the second template having a distal end portion which is obliquely arranged with respect to the X-axis, wherein each template defines a non-coring, atraumatic distal end.

13. (Original) The instrument kit according to claim 12, wherein the distal end portion of the second template is offset in a direction of the Y-axis.

14. (Original) The instrument kit according to claim 13, further comprising:

a third template including an elongate body defining X, Y and Z axes, wherein the elongate body of the third template is offset in a direction of the Z-axis.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of performing a repair procedure or a meniscal repair in a knee, comprising the steps of:

introducing an elongate template within the knee area of a patient to approximate a path to a meniscal tear within the knee;

advancing a repair device along the path to the position adjacent the meniscal tear; and

actuating the repair device to at least partially repair the meniscal tear.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 15, wherein the elongate template includes a substantially straight elongate body and wherein the step of introducing includes advancing the elongate body within the knee to create a linear path to the meniscal tear.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 16, wherein the elongate body of the elongate template includes a distal portion which is angularly offset relative to a longitudinal axis of the elongate body and wherein the step of introducing includes advancing the elongate body to create a non-linear path to the meniscal tear.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 15 including the step of removing the elongate template prior to the step of advancing the repair device.

19. (New) An instrument kit for performing a repair procedure on a meniscal tear in a knee for use in combination with a meniscal repair device configured to fire anchors into a target site, the instrument kit comprising:

a plurality of templates each including a solid elongate body defining X, Y and Z axes, wherein the plurality of templates include:

at least one template having an elongate body that is linear along the X-axis;

at least one template having an elongate body defining a distal end portion that is offset in a direction of the Y-axis; and

at least one template having an elongate body defining a distal end portion that is offset in a direction of the Z-axis.

20. (New) The instrument kit according to claim 19, wherein at least one elongate body includes an atraumatic tip to reduce injury to tissue within the knee, and wherein the at least one atraumatic tip includes a distal end surface defining a dimple formed therein.